Amendments to the Claims

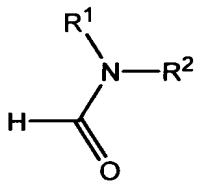
Please cancel claims 40 and 42-45 without prejudice. Please amend the remaining claims as shown below in the Listing of Claims.

Listing of Claims

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) A process for preparing 2-amino-4,6-dichloro-5-formamidopyrimidine from 2,5-diamino-4,6-dihydroxypyrimidine, or a salt or tautomeric form thereof, comprising:

a) reacting said 2,5-diamino-4,6-dihydroxypyrimidine, salt or tautomeric form with a chlorinating agent and a formamide of formula (I)



(I)

wherein

R^1 and R^2 are each independently: a C_1-C_4-alkyl radical; or are joined together to form the ring $-(CH_2)_n-$ where n is an integer from 4 to 6; or together form the ring $-(CH_2)_2-O-(CH_2)_2-$;

wherein the reaction is carried out without the addition of a solvent and at a temperature of from 50 to 130°C;

b) reacting the product produced in the reaction of step a) with water at a temperature of from 0 to 100°C and then adjusting the pH to between 1.0 and 6.0 with an inorganic base; and

c) hydrolyzing, in the absence of an added solvent, the aqueous reaction mixture produced in step b) at a temperature from 70 to 120°C to give 2-amino-4,6-dichloro-5-formamidopyrimidine.

22. (Previously presented) The process of claim 21, wherein the starting material used is 2,5-diamino-4,6-dihydroxypyrimidine in the form of a hemisulfate, hydrochloride monohydrate or as an anhydrous hydrochloride.

23. (Previously presented) The process of claim 21, wherein the starting material used is anhydrous 2,5-diamino-4,6-dihydroxypyrimidine hydrochloride.

24. (Previously presented) The process of claim 21, wherein said chlorinating agent is an acid chloride.

25. (Previously presented) The process of claim 24, wherein said chlorinating agent is selected from the group consisting of phosgene; oxalyl chloride; chloromethylene-dimethylammonium chloride; thionyl chloride; sulfuryl chloride; phosphorus trichloride; phosphorus pentachloride; and phosphorus oxychloride.

26. (Previously presented) The process of claim 21, wherein the formamide of formula (I) is first reacted with said chlorinating agent and 2,5-diamino-4,6-dihydroxypyrimidine is then added.

27. (Previously presented) The process of claim 21, wherein the formamide of formula I is selected from the group consisting of: N,N-dimethylformamide; N-formylpyrrolidine; N-formylpiperidine; N-formylmorpholine; and N,N-dimethylformamide.

28. (Previously presented) The process of claim 21, wherein from 1.0 to 5.0 mol of formamide of formula (I) are used per mole of 2,5-diamino-4,6-dihydroxypyrimidine.

29. (Previously presented) The process of claim 28 wherein from 3.0 to 7.0 mol of chlorinating agent are used per mole of 2,5-diamino-4,6-dihydroxypyrimidine.

30. (Previously presented) The process of claim 21, wherein the reaction step a) is carried out within a temperature range of from 70 to 110°C.

31. (Previously presented) The process of claim 21, wherein the inorganic base used in step b) is a base which forms soluble chloride salts.

32. (Previously presented) The process of claim 21, wherein the inorganic base used in step b) is selected from the group consisting of: sodium hydroxide solution; sodium hydroxide; sodium carbonate; sodium hydrogencarbonate; potassium hydroxide solution; potassium hydroxide; potassium carbonate; and potassium hydrogen-carbonate.

33. (Previously presented) The process of claim 32, wherein the inorganic base used in step b) is sodium hydroxide solution.

34. (Previously presented) The process of claim 21, wherein from 2 to 3 mol of inorganic base are used per mole of chlorinating agent.

35. (Previously presented) The process of claim 21, wherein, in the neutralization in step b), pH is adjusted to between 2.0 and 5.0.

36. (Previously presented) The process of claim 35, wherein, in the neutralization in step b), pH is adjusted to between 3.0 and 4.0.

37. (Previously presented) The process of claim 36, wherein the reaction product from step a) is reacted at a temperature of from 20 to 60°C.

38. (Previously presented) The process of claim 37, wherein the hydrolysis in step c) is carried out at a temperature of 70-120°C.

39. (Previously presented) The process of claim 37, wherein the hydrolysis in step c) is carried out at a temperature of 80 to 100°C.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously presented) The process of claim 21, wherein said process is carried out without the isolation of intermediates, as a one-pot reaction.

42-45. (Cancelled)